

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, comprising:

a tubular housing having a closed first end;

a series of tubular sections telescopically arranged in said tubular housing, each tubular section having a piston head with an opening to introduce a fluid in successive areas enclosed between two successive piston heads; and

sealing walls between said successive areas where the fluid is present ~~and~~, ambient air being free to enter in the hoist between a piston head and a respective tubular section;

wherein said tubular sections are formed in a nitrided steel for a semi-lubricated contact therebetween.

2. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, comprising:

a cylindrical housing;

a series of actuatable tubular sections in semi-lubricated contact and telescopically received in said housing; each tubular section having a piston head with an opening for passage of a pressure fluid therethrough; and

seal means between areas enclosed by two successive piston ends for-separating the fluid from ambient air;

wherein ambient air is free to enter the hoist between a piston head and a respective tubular section, and said tubular sections are formed in a nitrided steel.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, comprising:

a cylindrical housing;

a series of actuatable tubular sections telescopically received in said housing; each said tubular section having a piston ~~end~~ head; an inlet/outlet port in piston ~~ends~~ heads for passage of a pressure fluid therethrough;

seal means mounted in said piston ~~ends~~ heads separating said fluid from ambient air, ambient air being free to enter the hoist between a piston head and a respective tubular section; and

bore means provided in said tubular sections on a front side of said piston ~~ends~~ heads;

wherein said tubular sections are formed in a nitrided steel so as to be in semi-lubricated contact with one another.

5. (Currently amended) A telescopic hoist, comprising:

a series of tubular sections; and

a tubular housing with an open end to receive said series of tubular sections telescopically arranged and in a semi-lubricated contact with one another;

wherein said series of tubular sections comprises an outermost tubular section and at least one inner tubular section, said outermost tubular section having a head provided with a hydraulic inlet port allowing a fluid to be introduced in a first area between said head and a piston head of said at least one inner tubular section, each one of said at least one inner tubular section having an opening allowing the fluid to be received in a second area enclosed between the piston head thereof and a piston head of a successive tubular section, ambient air being free to enter the hoist between a piston head and a respective tubular section, each piston head being provided with bore seals to separate the areas where the fluid is present and ambient air.